The Southern PATRIOT

Vol. 14. No. 8 Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. October, 1956

IKE, ADLAI DO BADLY ON INTEGRATION

To put it rather sardonically: However you vote November 6, you can vote with a clear conscience—either party's presidential candidate is likely to do as much as the other in regard to gaining enforcement of the Supreme Court's desegregation decrees. Both have displayed an equal lack of zeal on the issue.

At this writing Adlai Stevenson's boldest venture has been a recitation of the Democratic Party's milk-toast civil rights plank before an audience in Hot Springs, Ark.

This display of daring was matched by Vice-President Nixon, who disclosed in Texas that he was an honorary member of the NAACP.

But the gestures seemed to be hothouse, calculated things when contrasted with the opportunities the Democratic and Republican contenders did not take.

Stevenson and Kefauver passed within a block of the mob-besieged high school at Clinton, Tenn., on their whirlwind tour of strategic regional centers. They passed without comment.

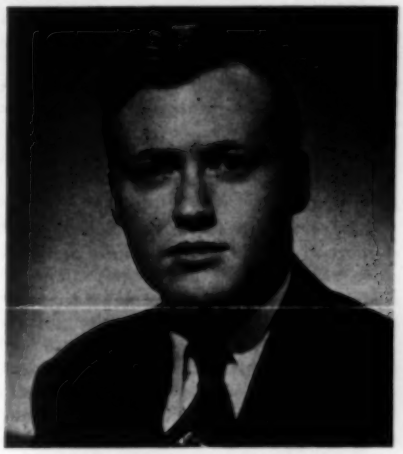
President Eisenhower expressed ignorance of how Texas' Governor Shivers had openly and explicitly defied a federal court by ordering the transfer of Negro students from the Mansfield school. Later, in an indignant speech about violence in the South, he outlined —somewhat sketchily — a procedure whereby federal marshals would back up the courts.

But, although Eisenhower is president right now and Shivers' defiance still stands, nothing has been done.

Nor has Nixon declared how he feels about his fellow NAACP members in Texas being proscribed by a state court.

And in Washington two Congressmen from Mississippi and Georgia dragged out an obscene inquiry into school integration at the nation's capital, while party leaders made disapproving noises but professed themselves impotent to stop the show.

By contrast, tons of rhetoric have been expended on the farm problem, on Alger Hiss, and on who did or didn't appease Juan Peron.



REV. JOHN H. KNIBB, JR.

WE HAVE SEPARATE BUT EQUAL SCHOOLS
THE THEORY
THE PRACTICE
WHITE
NEGRO
WE CAN'T DESEGREGATE BECAUSE THE NEGRO CHILDREN ARE WAY BEHIND THE WHITES

The Vicious Circle

IS DIXIE DESTROYING ITS BEST SEED?

A young white minister has written us telling how he was obliged to leave Virginia and move to Illinois, simply because he wrote a letter to a newspaper expressing opposition to school segregation.

His is only the latest story of forced exile and hardship we have heard. On pages two and three of this issue we print reports from embattled white integrationists in Georgia and Kentucky.

In another instance: Robert D. Barnes, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce editor fired because of his membership on the SCEF board, was able to find new employment no further South than Philadelphia.

His suit against the Louisiana Employment Service for denying him unemployment compensation on the ground that he had "engaged in activities inimical to his employer" got dubious reception in a circuit court. Judge Louis Yarrut remanded the case for another hearing by the employment agency—without any indication that the agency should consider the matter in a different light. Yarrut said from the bench that he had prepared himself for the Barnes case by reading the Eastland report, etc., on the SCEF.

Most of the victims of the purge are young white Southerners. Roy Wilkins of the NAACP spoke truly when he said that the White Citizens Councils have been more active and effective against whites than they have against Negroes.

Most of the victims of the purge knew pretty much in advance what trouble awaited them. They spoke out and acted from deep moral conviction, without trimming their consciences to suit the prevailing bigoted breeze.

Most of the victims of the purge did not go out of their way to find trouble. As competent, creative people in their various professions they found that race prejudice blocked them from doing their jobs as well as they knew they could be doing them. So they took their stands.

One could easily draw the conclusion that the South, in its current tail-chasing rage against simple decency, is destroying its best seed. The migration elsewhere of talented Negroes seeking education and employment has been going on for years. To this now can be added the exodus of valuable young whites.

And such might be the result—the Deep South states, which in recent years have made gains toward a standard of living and culture equal to that of the rest of the country, could subside and submerge into a stagnant feudalism comparable to that prevailing at the end of the 19th Century.

On the other hand, there are these reasons for a brighter outlook: First, not all the young people of courage have been ousted. They are sticking—living "on air" out of a determination not to yield their Southern birthright to terrorists—and their example is shaming

(Continued on Page 4.)

HOW THE BRADEN CASE QUICKENED LOUISVILLE'S CONSCIENCE

The smooth inauguration of integration in the public schools of Louisville, Ky., drew national acclaim.

The following is a report from seven Louisvillians who know the city well—its best and its worst sides. They are the defendants in what has become known internationally as The Braden Case—victims of the "sedition" prosecution which ensued after they assisted a Negro couple purchase a home in a "white" neighborhood.

* * * *

Dear Friends:

We are writing to thank you for your support in our 2½-year struggle against state sedition laws and segregation in Kentucky. We want at the same time to bring you up to date on our situation.

You probably know that the Kentucky Court of Appeals set aside the 15-year sentence and $5,000 fine imposed on Carl Braden. His conviction was reversed June 22, 1956, in compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of April 2 that state sedition laws are inoperative. The lower court in Louisville waited until Aug. 14 to release the $40,000 bond posted by Carl, and this money has now been returned to those who provided it.

It was assumed that the reversal would mean automatic dismissal of charges against the six other defendants, since the indictments were identical. However, Judge L. R. Curtis of Criminal Court has refused to dismiss the other indictments because of opposition from the prosecutor, Commonwealth's Attorney A. Scott Hamilton.

The prosecutor claimed he might want to try the others for sedition against Kentucky alone, although the charge of alleged sedition against Kentucky had been a part of the indictment against Carl Braden. Hamilton said he also wants to keep the books and private papers illegally seized at the homes of the defendants. He told Judge Curtis he would have to return these if the charges were dropped.

Our next appearance in court is still set for Nov. 12. We hope the charges will be dismissed at that time. However, there appears to be an understanding among the states to keep "sedition" prosecutions alive in the hope that Congress will validate state sedition laws. Prosecutions arising under the outlawed sedition statutes are still pending in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, in addition to Kentucky. In the South, these laws remain a threat against those working for an end of racial segregation and discrimination.

All of those involved in the case are trying to put their lives back together and to look to the future. We who were charged with sedition have had trouble finding jobs or holding jobs once we get them. For this reason, some of us have had to leave Louisville to get employment, but others are hoping to stay here. They want to remain in the South, where there is still much to be done.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wade IV, the Negro couple whose efforts to obtain decent housing led to such bitter reprisals against them and the white people who supported them, are still in a court battle over possession of the house in the suburbs. Foreclosure suits by the bank and the builder are still pending in Circuit Court. The house has not been repaired since it was dynamited by neighborhood racists on June 27, 1954. Because of the dispute over ownership, the court is still holding $5,500 paid by the insurance company.

It will interest you to know that Andrew Wade—undaunted by all that happened to him as a result of his search for a house—was among Negroes who took the lead this year in breaking down segregation in Louisville parks, once legal obstacles were removed by the courts.

Another heartening development must be mentioned. On Sept. 10, 1956, both Louisville and Jefferson County desegregated their schools without incident. The actual amount of integration was disappointing to some, for the school board had encouraged white parents to transfer children out of previously all-Negro schools and Negro parents to transfer children out of previously all-white schools. But, despite this, there are numerous mixed classes in both elementary and high schools. It was a real step forward for this city on the edge of Mason and Dixon's Line.

Many people believe that the smoothness with which this was accomplished was at least partly due to the lessons learned in Louisville as a result of the violence against the Wades. You will recall that the original Supreme Court deciison on school segregation was handed down in May, 1954, just as the Wades took possession of their house—and it was dynamited shortly thereafter.

People of good will in the community were amazed, as were we, at the fury which efforts at racial integration had aroused in this border city. Many of these people remained silent during the attacks on the Wades and their friends, but they evidently resolved that this kind of thing would not be allowed to happen again. In the fall of 1954 they began to prepare the community for peaceful school integration.

As a result, people who were neutral and silent 2½ years ago are now actively supporting integration moves. The rabid segregationists are still active, too. The same ones who helped incite violence against the Wades formed a White Citizens Council and tried to organize opposition to integrated schools. But this time, encouraged by many influential citizens, the police let it be known that troublemakers would be arrested. There was no trouble.

Louisville had come a long way in two years. Much, it is true, remains to be done: the problem of segregated housing remains much as it was two years ago; more complete school integration must be achieved, and job discrimination is still a major problem. But progress has been made. If we have contributed to that progress—even if merely by serving as lightning rods for some of the ancient prejudice and fury—we feel that our efforts were not in vain.

Gratefully yours,

VERNON BOWN — LEWIS LUBKA
CARL BRADEN — LOUISE GILBERT
I. O. FORD — LARUE SPIKER
ANNE BRADEN

Statement of Ownership

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

SOUTHERN PATRIOT published monthly, except July and August at Nashville, Tenn., for October, 1956.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido St., New Orleans 12, La.

Editor, James A. Dombrowski, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.

Managing Editor, None. Business manager, None.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of August, 1956.

IRVING NOVICH. (My commission expires at death.)

KOINONIA FARM: ECONOMIC BLOCKADE, LEGAL SNIPING

In last month's issue we carried a report from Koinonia Farm in Americus, Ga., describing the difficulties that interracial cooperative venture is experiencing. The following is excerpted from another newsletter issued by the group whose leader is a Baptist minister, Clarence L. Jordan.

* * * *

THE SPARK—For nearly 14 years Koinonia has sought to maintain a witness to Christian brotherhood in a powder-keg situation. There have been many ups and downs and difficult situations, but sooner or later things eased off. About four months ago Clarence Jordan was asked to sign applications of two Negro students who wished to enroll in the Ga. Business College (white). The applications required the signatures of two alumni of the University system, and Clarence is an alumnus of the U.of Ga. Accompanied by Harry Atkinson from Koinonia, Clarence went to Atlanta to interview the students and to talk with professors at Morehouse College and other interested persons. He found that the students were not seeking to make a test case, but actually wanted the training which they could not get anywhere else in Atlanta.

Clarence and Harry then suggested to the students that instead of getting in line, as they had planned, with the white students and seeking to register, that they first talk the matter over with the president of the college and see if he could make some suggestion as to how they might get the same or equal courses. To this they agreed, so Clarence made an appointment with President Sparks for the next morning. Dr. Sam Williams, professor of philosophy at Morehouse, and Rev. Jim Weldon, pastor of Oak Grove Methodist Church in Atlanta, and also an alumnus of the U. of Ga., went with Clarence and the students to talk with the president.

The group was received very graciously and found the president quite in sympathy with the problem. He called in the registrar to see if something could be done about enrolling the students, but the registrar said that the applications must be signed by two alumni of that particular institution, not the U. of Ga. (Up to this point Clarence had not signed the applications and because he now was disqualified, he never did sign them though the newspapers reported his doing so.) President Sparks seemed to sense that the signature requirement was a technical dodge, and suggested that we pursue the matter further by taking it up with the executive secretary of the Board of Regents. He then called the Secretary and made an immediate appointment for us.

Here again we were very kindly received. But the secretary told us it was a big problem, and asked that we give him a few days to think it over. This was agreed upon, and he thanked us very profusely for the Christian spirit in which we had come. He was well aware that he could have had a situation on his hands similar to that when Miss Lucy sought enrollment at the U. of Alabama.

Harry and Clarence then returned to Americus, to find that Gov. Griffin had already called up the sheriff down here

REV. CLARENCE JORDAN

to find out about "this Jordan fellow" and what he was up to. The Americus Times-Recorder had headlines to the effect that an Americus man, resident of Koinonia Farm, had signed applications of Negroes to Ga. Business College. This got everybody a little bit excited. Clarence began receiving threatening anonyous phone calls.

A few days later, the first insurance cancellation came through. Later all insurance was cancelled. Retail merchants, who had been handling our eggs for years, began dropping us. Practically all of our attractive, hand-made highway signs, advertising our roadside market, were pulled up and broken. We fixed them and put them back up. They were pulled down again. We put them back up. This continued until last week when they not only took them up but hauled them off. So temporarily, they've won.

Pistol shots were fired into the Roadside Market, located on U.S. 19, about four miles from the main farm, which is on Ga. 49. Shots were also fired into the community. No one has been hit.

THE INJUNCTION—For a number of years Koinonia has conducted each summer a Vacation Bible School which was attended by Negro children. Last year it was decided to try something more intensive, so a summer camp for children 8-12 was held. Though the facilities were quite inadequate, the camp was very successful, with about 30 children of both races attending.

This year we spent several thousand dollars expanding and improving the facilities. The camp was booked to capacity with an enrollment of 36. Last minute preparations were being made to get everything in readiness. Then on June 9, a few days before the camp was to open, we were served with a court injunction restraining us from having the camp. The injunction was brought by the County Health Department on "health and sanitation" grounds. A hearing was set for July 2.

At the July 2 hearing there were obviously no grounds for the continuation of the injunction, but the County Attorney asked that the hearing be postponed until July 19 because he "had not had time to prepare the case." In the meantime, the camp had been transferred to the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., where it opened on schedule.

Before the July 19 hearing, we were served with another petition signed by four citizens who asked the court that they be allowed to join the county in prosecuting the case because the camp would be "a detriment to the morals of the children." These citizens employed a powerful Americus law firm to represent them.

On July 19 we appeared in court with no lawyer (we had been unable to secure local counsel). The court room was packed. The judge looked over the situation and decided that it would be a "wrangle between the Gospel and the law" (his words). He therefore ordered another postponement until Sept. 20.

We would have been quite willing to drop it there, but the County Attorney said he thought the injunction applied to Koinonia's open door policy of having anyone visit us at any time. Because this involved a deep principle—the right of free citizens to have guests in their homes—we decided to employ a lawyer to help us fight this through. On Sept. 23 the injunction was dissolved as being "moot."

On July 23 our Roadside Market was dynamited, about which we have already written.

(Continued on Page 4.)